

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computerized method for developing an electronic records management system customizable to meet the ongoing information needs of users of a given enterprise application, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of control tables configurable by an expert in the enterprise application, with a first set of the control tables being configurable to define system-level operational functions, with a second set of the control tables being configurable to define a selected input medium for uploading information into a repository database, and with a third set of the control tables being configurable to define a selected output medium for downloading information from the database;

providing an input/output device for accessing the plurality of control tables; populating each control table with prescribed rules provided by the expert through the input/output device for invoking a respective action in response to a user-triggered event; and

processing the control tables to construct a respective record set object array corresponding to the rules provided by the expert to build in response to each constructed record set object array a customized records management system, with the system being accessible by the users through the selected input and output mediums in accordance with the prescribed rules provided by the expert.

2. The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the first control table set configurable to define the selected system-level operational functions comprises a menu control table including a main menu and a plurality of sub-menu choices invocable by a respective user-triggered event.

3. The computerized method of claim 2 wherein the first control table set configurable to define the selected system-level operational functions further comprises a menu tree control table including a menu tree and a plurality of tree nodes invocable by a respective user-triggered event.

4. The computerized method of claim 2 wherein the menu control table is linkable to a search control table configurable to define searchable keys for retrieving information from the database.

5. The computerized method of claim 2 wherein the menu control table is linkable to a data report control table configurable to activate a reporting wizard for generating reports from the database.

6. The computerized method of claim 2 wherein the menu control table is linkable to a menu tree control table including a menu tree and a plurality of tree nodes invocable by a respective user-triggered event.

7. The computerized method of claim 2 wherein the menu control table is linkable to an executable control table configurable to interface with programs external to the customized records management system.

8. The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the second control table set configurable to define the selected input medium for uploading information into the repository database comprises a form control table for gathering input data.

9. The computerized method of claim 8 wherein the form control table is selected from the group consisting of a form display control table, a data tree control table, a dropdown control table, a keypad control table, and a coversheet control table.

10. The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the third control table set configurable to define the selected output medium for downloading information from the repository database comprises a form display control table for displaying output data.

11. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising a data analysis control table configurable to perform predefined analysis on selected data in the database.

12. The computerized method of claim 5 wherein the user-triggered event comprises a computer-detectable interface event selected from the group consisting of a computer mouse event, a keyboard event, a pointer event, and a user-voice utterance event.

5 13. The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the customized records system is rebuildable to include any new customization as may be required by the ongoing information needs of the enterprise application based on any new prescribed rules provided by the expert to repopulate the control tables.

10 14. The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the customized records system is accessible to users and experts via a communications network selected from the group consisting of a local area network, a wide area network, an intranet, and the Internet.

15 15. A computerized applications generator system for developing an electronic records management system customizable to meet the ongoing information needs of users of a given enterprise application, the applications generator system:

20 memory for storing a plurality of control tables configurable by an expert in the enterprise application, with a first set of the control tables being configurable to define system-level operational functions, with a second set of the control tables being configurable to define a selected input medium for uploading information into a repository database, and with a third set of the control tables being configurable to define a selected output medium for downloading information from the database;

25 an input/output device for accessing the plurality of control tables and populating each control table with prescribed rules provided by the expert for invoking a respective action in response to a user-triggered event; and

30 a processor configured to process the control tables and construct a respective record set object array corresponding to the rules provided by the expert to build in response to each constructed record set object array a customized records management system, with the system being accessible by the users through the

selected input and output mediums in accordance with the prescribed rules provided by the expert.

16. The computerized system of claim 15 wherein the first control table set
5 configurable to define the selected system-level operational functions comprises a menu control table including a main menu and a plurality of sub-menu choices invocable by a respective user-triggered event.

17. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the first control table set
10 configurable to define the selected system-level operational functions further comprises a menu tree control table including a menu tree and a plurality of tree nodes invocable by a respective user-triggered event.

18. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the menu control table
15 is linkable to a search control table configurable to define searchable keys for retrieving information from the database.

19. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the menu control table
20 is linkable to a data report control table configurable to activate a reporting wizard for generating reports from the database.

20. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the menu control table
is linkable to a menu tree control table including a menu tree and a plurality of tree nodes invocable by a respective user-triggered event.

21. The computerized system of claim 16 wherein the menu control table
25 is linkable to an executable control table configurable to interface with programs external to the customized records management system.

22. The computerized system of claim 15 wherein the second control table
30 set configurable to define the selected input medium for uploading information into the repository database comprises a form control table for gathering input data.

23. The computerized system of claim 22 wherein the form control table is selected from the group consisting of a form display control table, a data tree control table, a dropdown control table, a keypad control table, and a coversheet control table.

5 24. The computerized system of claim 15 wherein the third control table set configurable to define the selected output medium for downloading information from the repository database comprises a form display control table for displaying output data.

10 25. The computerized system of claim 15 further comprising a data analysis control table configurable to perform predefined analysis on selected data in the database.

15 26. The computerized system of claim 19 wherein the user-triggered event comprises a computer-detectable interface event selected from the group consisting of a computer mouse event, a keyboard event, a pointer event, and a user-voice utterance event.

20 27. The computerized system of claim 15 wherein the customized records system is rebuildable to include any new customization as may be required by the ongoing information needs of the enterprise application based on any new prescribed rules provided by the expert to repopulate the control tables.

25 28. The computerized system of claim 15 wherein the customized records system is accessible to users and experts via a communications network selected from the group consisting of a local area network, a wide area network, an intranet, and the Internet.